a sudden thought struck me, you believe they're his own?" I of the curate; 'or are they only ton—a make-up disguise? They y almost look like it." ou don't suppose—" Charles beand checked himself suddenly, ess, I do." I answered; 'the Seer!" I recollected my blunder, and ed down sheepishly. For, to say truth, Vandrift had straightly end on me long before to say nothed on me long before to say nother the say nother than the same of the

a man who was at Nice with year." I stammered out, trying o look unconcerned, "A fellow alked about, that's all." And I the subject, the curate, like a donkey, 't let me turn it, he spectows like that?" he inin an undertone. I was really If this was Colonel Clu, 'the was obviously giving him the making it much more difficult to catch him, now we might he hadn't." I assware.

"You have no doubt of their reality?" I asked.

"You have no doubt of their reality?" I asked.

"Not the slightest." he replied, gazing at them. "They are genuing stones, precisely the same in quality and type as Amelia's necklet."

Amelia drew a sigh of relief. "I'll go upstairs," she said slowly, "and bring down my own for you both to compare with them.

One minute later she rushed down again, hreathless. Amelia is far from slim and I never before knew her exert herself so actively.

'Charles, Charles!" she cried, "do you know what dreadful thing has happened? Two of my own stones are gone. He's stolen a couple of diamonds from my necklet and sold them back to me." She held out the riviere. It was all too true. Two gems were missing—and these two just fitted the empty places!

A light broke in upo nme. I clapped my hand to my head. "By Jove." I exclaimed, "the little cutate is—Colonei Clay!"

Charles clapped his own hand to his brow in turn. "And Jessie," he cried. "White Heather"—that innocent little Scotch woman! I often detected a famillar ring in her voice, in spite of the charming Highland accent. Jessie is—Madame Picardet!"

We had absolutely no evidence; but like the commissory at Nice, we fell instinctively sure of it. Sir Charles was determined to catch the rogue. This second deception put him on his mettle.

"The worst of the decept' go out."

instinctively sure of it. Sir Charles was ditermined to catch the rogue. This second deception put him on his metite.

"The worst of the man is," he said the has a method. He doesn't go out of his way to cheat us, he makes us go out of ours to be cheated. He lays a trap and we tumble headlorg intit. To-morrow, Sey, we must follow him on to Paris."

Amella explained to him what Mrs. O'Hugan had said. Charles took it all in at once with his usual sagacity. "Their explains," he said, "why the raseal used this particular trick to draw us on by. If we had suspected him he could have shown the diamonds were real and so escaped detection. It was a blind to draw us of from the fact of the robbery. He went to Paris to be out of the way when the discovery was made, and to get a clear day's start of us. What a consummate rogue! And to do me twice running!"

"How did he get at my jewel case, though?" Amelia exclaim d. "That's the question," Charles answered. "You do leave it about so!"

"And why didn't he steal the whole riviere at once and sell the gens." I inquired.

"To cunning," Charles replied. "This was much better business. It isn't casy to dispose of a big thing like that. In the first place, the stones are large and valuable: in the second place, they are well known—every dealer has heard of the Vandrift riviere and seen pictures of the shape of them. They're marked gems, so to speak. No, he played a better game—took a couple of them off and offered them to the only person on earth who was likely to buy them without suspicion. He came here, meaning to work this very trick; he had the links made right to the shape beforehand, and then he stole the stones and slipped them into their places. It's a wonderfully clever trick, Upon my soul, I almost admire the follow!"

For Charles was a business man him self, and can appreciate business.—How Colonel Clay came to know about that necklet and to appropriate two of

